(Amount in Rs. lakhs)

Year	Uttar Pradesh		Punjab	
	No. of Proposals	Amount released	No. of Proposals	Amount released
1997-1998	1	13.75	4	89.45
1998-1999	3	110.00	3	173.15
1999-2000	5	190.01	1	25.00
2000-2001	5	557.01	4	352.32
2001-2002	9	193.27	3	132.25
2002-2003	2	38.06	1	25.00

Approval of applications seeking financial assistance is given based on technical feasibility and financial viability of the proposals. The major projects for which assistance has been extended include setting up of Food Parks, food processing units and upgradation of laboratories etc. These are at various stages of implementation.

Storage facilities for FPIs

4723. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated amount of loss incurred by the country due to lack of modern storage facilities for food processing industries, during the last five years;

(b) the steps taken by government to reduce such loss; and

(c) the present position of the food processing industries and cold storage facilities, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: (a) In 1995, Government of India constituted a Working Group on Post Harvest Management, Marketing & Exports. This Group estimated that post-harvest losses in different crops range from 8% to 37%. These losses occur during different stages after harvest.

(b) and (c) In order to facilitate overall growth of food processing industries and thereby reduce the wastage of vegetables and fruits, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, under its plan schemes, have provided financial assistance of Rs. 9921.87 lakhs during the last three years for setting up, expansion and modernization of food processing industries including cold storages, strengthening of backward linkages, infrastructure facilities etc. Besides, other agencies like National Horticulture Board, Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority, National Cooperative Development Corporation also provide assistance under their respective schemes.

The food processing industries are both in organized and unorganized sectors. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries implements Fruit Products Order, ,(FPO) 1955 under which licences are issued for manufacture of processed products of fruits and vegetables. As on 31.12.2001, 5569 licences have been granted under FPO 1955.

Under the capital investment subsidy scheme of National Horticulture Board, as on 31.03.2002, 509 cold storages with total capacity of 23.59 lakhs metric tonnes (approximately) have been assisted.

Suicide by children

† 4724. SHRI JANESWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governmen's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Dainik Jagaran of 8th February, 2002 captioned, "Aatmahatya Kartey Naunihaal";

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that as a result of mental burden of education on children, risk of mental disease likely to be caused on them is increasing; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.